



South Dakota

Rapid City Small Arms Range Annex

Facility and Location

The Rapid City Small Arms Range Annex site was acquired in 1944 for use as an outdoor firing area for large caliber machine guns and high powered rifles in support of the Rapid City Army Airfield. The site was declared excess in 1962. The open burn/open detonation (OB/OD) range was used for the disposal of small arms munitions, primarily by burning in an incinerator between 1948 and 1962. Records also indicate that munitions disposal and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) training activities were conducted at the range. Small arms ammunitions were used at the range. Munitions handled as part of EOD activities included 10 pound incendiary bombs, 3.5 inch practice rockets, jet assisted takeoff rocket motors, 60mm mortars, and 2,025 pound inert practice bombs.

Several ranges were established in order to train air crews in the firing of small arms weapons. These are identified as the 'range complex', which provided a location for air crews (aircraft gunners) to receive ground based small arms training that simulated air-to-air gunnery using various small arms weapons systems. Small arms ammunition were reportedly used during gunnery practice. Small arms training occurred between 1944 and 1947. Per the Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation, "Abundant metal debris, empty 55 gallon drums, and empty ammunition containers are present on the ground surface, suggesting that the possible disposal pit (PDP) was historically used as a disposal site... Charred debris and brass end caps from shotgun ammunition were observed during soil sampling at the PDP, indicating that the pit may also have been used for ammunition incineration activities."

Media Sampled and Findings

Sediment — In 2008, one sample reported no detection.

Soil — In 2008, 15 of 24 samples detected perchlorate from 0.84 to 70.3 ppb.

Appropriate Actions

A Risk Investigation is planned for heavy metals onsite, but no further actions are planned for perchlorate. There are currently no state or regional EPA screening levels for perchlorate in soil.